

Claims:

- 1 1. A response system, comprising:
 - 2 (a) a regional transmitter for transmitting a control signal;
 - 3 (b) a plurality of receivers adapted to receive the control signal; and
 - 4 (c) at least one automatic response device, each device associated
 - 5 with one of the receivers and adapted to perform a function.
- 1 2. The response system of Claim 1, wherein the control signal is an
2 infrared signal.
- 1 3. The response system of Claim 1, wherein the control signal is a radio
2 frequency signal.
- 1 4. A monitoring and response system, comprising:
 - 2 (a) a monitoring device for detecting at least one condition;
 - 3 (b) a plurality of regional transmitters adapted to transmit control
 - 4 signals to a geographic area;
 - 5 (c) a plurality of receivers within the geographic area adapted to
 - 6 receive the control signal; and
 - 7 (d) at least one automatic response device, each automatic
 - 8 response device associated with one of the receivers, the automatic response
 - 9 device adapted to perform a function.
- 1 5. The monitoring and response system of Claim 4, wherein at least two
2 of the plurality of regional transmitters transmit control signals to different
3 portions of the geographic area.

1 6. The monitoring and response system of Claim 5, wherein the at least
2 two of the plurality of regional transmitters transmit control signals to the
3 different portions of the geographic area using the same control signal.

1 7. The monitoring and response system of Claim 4, wherein the
2 monitoring device is adapted to detect at least one environmental condition.

1 8. The monitoring and response system of Claim 7, wherein the
2 monitoring device is adapted to receive notifications from a weather
3 monitoring and notification service.

1 9. The monitoring and response system of Claim 4, wherein the
2 monitoring device monitors the at least one condition by monitoring precursor
3 conditions.

1 10. A method for a service provider to provide notification service to at
2 least one location having an automatic response device, the method
3 comprising:
4 (a) monitoring at least one condition; and
5 (b) upon detecting the condition, transmitting or ceasing transmitting
6 at least one control signal to the automatic response device that responds to
7 the presence or absence of the control signal by performing a function.

1 11. The method of Claim 10, wherein monitoring the at least one condition
2 comprises monitoring at least one environmental condition.

1 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein monitoring the at least one
2 environmental condition comprises monitoring precursor conditions to the at
3 least one environmental condition.

1 13. The method of Claim 10, wherein monitoring the at least one condition
2 comprises monitoring notifications from a weather monitoring and notification
3 service.

1 14. The method of Claim 10, wherein transmitting control signals
2 comprises transmitting the control signals to different portions of a geographic
3 area using different regional transmitters.

1 15. The method of Claim 14, wherein transmitting control signals
2 comprises transmitting a common control signal to the different portions of the
3 geographic area.

1 16. The method of Claim 10, wherein monitoring the at least one condition
2 comprises monitoring the absence of an environmental condition.